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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 COLOMBO 000042

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DEPARTMENT FOR SA, SA/INS, INL/C/CJ, IO/T

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01-09-14

TAGS: [PREL](#) [SNAR](#) [CE](#)

SUBJECT: Colombo Plan: Action Request regarding Drug Advisory Program director position

Refs: (A) Colombo-INL 01-09-04 fax

- (B) INL-Colombo 01-08-04 unclass email
- (B) 03 Colombo 2171, and previous (All Notal)

(U) Classified by James F. Entwistle, Deputy Chief of Mission. Reasons 1.5 (b,d).

1. (U) This is an Action Request -- Please see Para 4.

2. (U) REQUEST FOR CANDIDATES: Throughout the Asia/Pacific region, the Colombo Plan's Drug Advisory Program (DAP) plays a major role in demand reduction and drug awareness efforts. The tenure of the DAP's current director, Tay Bian How, is scheduled to expire in June 2004. Given this, the Colombo Plan Secretariat is soliciting nominations from its members states for candidates for the next DAP director. The nomination for candidate request, including the position description and recommended candidate qualifications, has been sent to the Department in Ref (A).

3. (C) POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF INCUMBENT: In the event that the Colombo Plan Secretariat does not receive applications for qualified candidates for the DAP director position, the organization has indicated to the U.S. that it may extend the appointment of current DAP director How (see Ref B). An extension is a likely possibility, given a current lack of suitable candidates. (Note: Due to the diversity of the member states (Afghanistan to Australia) and the importance of community-based programs and contacts at the grassroots level, the DAP director must possess significant related experience and an extensive skill set.)

4. (C) During a January 9 conversation, Yasmin Raheem, the executive assistant to the Secretary-General, told poloff of another reason for the lack of nominations for the DAP director position. Raheem stated that the Secretary-General is seeking to change the tenure of the

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DAP director position, from four years to two years. She added that the Secretary-General plans to address the issue regarding the length of the appointment at the upcoming Colombo Plan Council meeting on January 20. As such, Raheem suggested that member states are possibly waiting to propose candidates until the tenure of the appointment is finalized. Regarding an extension for the current DAP director, Raheem felt that an official request from the U.S., who is a major funder of DAP activities, would show to the Secretary-General and other member states a strong indication of support for such an extension.

5. (C) ACTION REQUEST: Mission requests guidance on the following three issues:

-- Mission inquires whether the Department plan to nominate any individual for the DAP director position. Nominations are due to the Colombo Plan Secretariat, in Colombo, by February 27, 2004.

-- As the Department seems to support an extension of the current director's appointment (see ref B), Mission inquires whether the Department would consider sending a letter, through Mission, to the Secretary-General officially supporting such an extension. Ideally, such a letter would be communicated to the Secretary-General prior to the January 20 Colombo Plan Council meeting.

-- Pending discussion at the January 20 meeting of the Secretary-General's intent to change the tenure of the

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DAP director position from four years to two years, Mission inquires if the Department has any initial feedback regarding the length of the position that Mission could convey during the meeting.

END ACTION REQUEST.

6. (U) Minimize considered.

